

The Times-Dispatch.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1933.

The Poll Tax.

A correspondent asks the following question:

"In your issue of Wednesday, December 24, page 4, in speaking of the poll tax as a prerequisite to voting, you make this statement (which statement, I believe, has appeared before in The Times-Dispatch): 'All persons who are registered in 1902 and in 1903 will be permitted to vote in the elections of 1904, provided only they have paid six months previous to such election their State poll tax for 1903.' In what section of the Constitution do you find authority for this statement?"

Section 21 of the new Constitution says: "Any person registered under the last two sections shall have the right to vote for members of the General Assembly and all officers elective by the people, subject to the following conditions: That he, unless exempted by section 22 (relating to war veterans) shall, as a prerequisite to the right to vote after the first day of January, 1904, previously pay, at least six months prior to the election, all State poll taxes assessed or assessable against him UNDER THIS CONSTITUTION during the three years next preceding that in which he applies to vote."

Persons who were registered in 1902 and 1903 had no poll taxes assessed or assessable against them UNDER THIS CONSTITUTION, except for the year 1903.

The language is confusing because of the use of the term "during the three years next preceding," etc., but that will be cleared up by and by. In 1903 and thereafter all persons must, as a prerequisite to the right to vote, have paid their State poll taxes for the three years next preceding that in which they offer to vote.

The Old Bell Tower.

On occasions during the present adjourned session, the two houses of the General Assembly of Virginia have been very scantily attended by members, and if the old custom were now in vogue a bell from the Capitol Square tower frequently would be heard ringing delinquents.

That custom, which was abandoned several decades ago, ante-dated, indeed, the construction of the tower, which is only about eighty years of age. No sooner had the Capitol Square tower been erected and occupied than a bell was bought which was to ring the call for members to come together following the usage which still prevails at some county courthouses.

That bell was hung in a temporary wooden structure which stood on the hill-side in front of the Capitol portico, but later it is reported to have been removed to the "Barracks." When the barracks were razed the bell, or its successor in office, was placed in the guardhouse, or old bell tower, where for many and many a year it struck the hours, sounded fire alarms, summoned members to the legislative hall, and in the 1861-1865 period, called the city militia into service to repel raids of Federal Cavalry. We have long been under the impression that this bell rang the alarm on the day of the Capitol disaster, April 27, 1870, but the city records show that the first bell to ring that day was that of the Broad Street engine house.

Persons passing through the Capitol Square about noon saw clouds of dust issuing from the windows of the hall of the House of Delegates, and thinking the dust was smoke, and that the building was burning, cried "fire." And so the fire bells were sounded and the department was brought out with its ladders and hooks, saws and axes, became the means of saving many persons who were buried beneath the fallen floor.

We have not been able to find out when the bell-tower bell fell into disuse; but it became cracked and went from bad to worse, and in the end probably was sold as junk a few years after the war. The history of the bell tower is closely identified with that of the public guard, or what was sometime facetiously called "the standing army of Virginia."

During the Revolutionary War the State had a public manufactory of arms at a point near the confluence of the James and Rivanna Rivers. Later on, either at the time when Virginia seemed undecided whether she would enter into the Federal Union or not, or upon the occasion when war with France seemed imminent, that manufactory was removed to Richmond. But there is evidence that at one time arms belonging to the State were stored in the loft of the Capitol building. However, a State armory was established here on the south side of the canal, at the foot of Fifth Street, and in 1860 the officers and artificers employed there were formed into a military company. Subsequently, probably as the outgrowth of the conviction that was raised by the (Gabriel) slave rebellion in Henrico county, a

regularly enlisted military company was formed. This company was charged with guard duty on the Capitol Square and at the penitentiary and at the armory.

It was to consist of the usual officers and seventy-five men. Three years later the number of men was reduced from seventy-five to sixty-eight. Then again from sixty-eight to sixty-five.

Most people who remember the Public Guard think of it as quartered in the armory, but it had previously had its home in the "Barracks," which stood near where the bell tower, or "bell house," now is. Mr. Mordcaai, in his charming book descriptive of "Richmond in By-Gone Days," speaks of the shabby appearance of these old barracks, with men and women's clothes fresh from the wash hung out in the square on lines, and children, dogs and pigs trotting around. From there the Public Guard went to good quarters in the armory, and the bell house was erected to serve as a guardhouse for the Capitol Square detail, and for use as a belfry.

Captains Quarrier, Dimmock and Gay are remembered as successive commanders of the Public Guard. The company wore a uniform of dark blue, with trimmings of yellow and red, and connected with it was a fine band of music—the Armory Band. It was quite often called. Every day there was a dress parade either at the armory or upon the Capitol Square. "Music by the band" on the square was a great feature of city life, especially during the Civil War, and in the summer time thousands of people, soldiers and civilians, ladies and gentlemen, gathered there to listen to it, and to promenade the avenue between the Washington monument and the Governor's house.

The Public Guard survived the Confederate War a few years, and was then disbanded, by military order. It was re-membered rightly. The old armory building was nearly destroyed by the fire of evacuation day. In subsequent years the property was sold to the Tredegar Company.

The old bell has gone, we know not where, but the tower remains, and so does the Legislature, but all its members have watches in their pockets, for all will be reminded by a bell, or by that there are times when some of them some manner, that the two houses are in session.

Rare Coins.

The Portland Oregonian says that mention of the disappearance of the \$250 gold piece from circulation and the premium that that coin commands as a curio has set many persons to rummaging in old pocket books and in bottoms of cash boxes and drawers in search of odd or out-of-date coins. And it adds:

"Some have found a \$250 piece, but not many. The \$3 piece, once quite common, but always a sort of curiosity, is often found, and many specimens of the little gold coins representing 25 cents and 50 cents, which were not minted by the government, and probably have not so much gold in them as they represent. They used to pass as coin, but were never in general circulation, being so easily lost, that they soon became scarce. One of the handsomest gold coins seen is a \$10 gold piece, bearing the mint stamp of 1793. It is larger than the present \$10 gold piece. The owner has it hung in a band and wears it as a charm on his watch chain. The owner says he refused an offer of \$150 for this relic. The old octagonal \$50 pieces were quite common in California in early days when gold dust was largely used as a circulating medium. They were made of pure gold, and while they had not the elegant finish of the old gold coins minted by the government in those days, many still remember them as the handsomest coin they ever saw. Many people now would consider them handsome on account of the \$50 in them."

The newspaper that undertakes to discuss the matter of old coins is sure to bring upon itself a deluge of inquiries from persons who have places to sell, and most of whom suppose that it is enough for a coin to be a hundred years or more old to make it very valuable. We take the risk, however, of saying, that quarter eagles, \$2.50's, are coined every year by the Philadelphia mint, and can be had in any quantity. Three dollar gold pieces have not been coined since 1859.

The 25 cent and 50 cent gold (?) pieces are not coins, and were not issued by the government, but by private individuals or firms on the Pacific coast to supply a local demand for change. Of course, they are not legal tenders.

The eagle of 1793 is quoted in a price list as being worth \$11, in an uncalculated condition.

The \$50 California pieces are not "pure" gold, and they were not issued by the government. There were other such "coins" issued in California and in other States.

King Cotton.

The high price that cotton has reached is fun for the planters, and for those speculators who are on the right side of the market, but is misery for the spinners. As yet, the manufactured goods will not yield a price corresponding to the rise in raw material. The consequence is that here at the beginning of winter there are sharp cuts in the wages of operatives in New England mills. In England, too, distress prevails among the spinners, and in our own South many thriving mill communities are destined to be among the sufferers.

The price of raw cotton would have no effect upon the factory hands if the manufactured product could be marketed at a proportionate increase, but it seems that it cannot be. This is a condition that will rectify itself in time, no doubt, but meanwhile, factory owners and employees are victims of the situation.

For a long time, it was supposed that the price was held up by speculators, and that with the new crop of cotton it would adjust itself, but not so. The government's crop report, just issued, so far from easing the market, has excited it worse than ever.

The English are of the opinion now, as they were during the Confederate war, that the world should not rely so greatly as it does upon this country for its cotton supply. They think more cotton should be produced in India, Egypt, China, etc. But why isn't that done? Simply because they cannot do it in competition with the United States so long as prices are normal. It might pay them very well to put in crops just now.

but when rates adjust themselves, they could not hope to compete with the American planter. After the present spasm in the market is over little will be said in England about "fostering" the growth of cotton in other lands than America. The spinner will go on in the good old way, and buy the raw material where he can get it best and cheapest. Meanwhile, we cannot but congratulate the Southern planter upon the prices he is able to realize at present.

War-Time Pipes.

Speaking of the corn-cob pipe, it may be said that it was very popular in the South during the war, being an article easily manufactured at home. Most of these pipes were of a natural rude pattern, but some were works of art. They were easily made, and a person who had a turn for carving could make them pretty.

But the home-made clay pipe was also much in vogue during the war, and we recall a clay pipe that was made in Northampton county, N. C., which would be a great delight to the smokers even of this generation. It was made by a man named Burnett who secured his clay from some neighboring hills, the location of which he never revealed. The clay was very porous and made a first-class pipe. The Burnett pipe was carved, not moulded, and he used as his carving instruments blades made of reeds. The pipes were artistically carved, each pipe being of its own design, and after being carved was thoroughly dried in the sun and then baked to hardness. There was a generous demand throughout that section and other sections for the Burnett pipe, and the manufacturer found a ready sale for all that he could make. He was a poor man, but made a snug sum of money out of his pipes, and when he finally purchased a valuable farm, costing several thousand dollars, he paid for it in silver coins, every one of which, he said, had been earned from his handiwork. He continued to make these pipes years after the war and when he died was a well to do citizen of the county.

An old colored man of the same county made clay pipes by hand, and so turned many an honest penny for himself.

New Orleans Bids.

It is stated that a number of rich Republicans are willing to guarantee the National Republican Committee a fund of \$300,000 if the committee will adopt that city as the meeting place for the next National Convention.

New Orleans is really not so very hot a place in June as most Northern people suppose, but it will be difficult to convince many Northerners and Westerners of that fact. The Washington Post says the convention probably will not go to New Orleans. "The chances are that it will go to a much less comfortable place."

St. Louis seems indisposed to offer much of a premium to the committee for the granting of this favor. It has a vast deal of money to raise in connection with the World's Fair, and some of the citizens think it would be unwise for it to enter into the convention contest. Chicago is reported to be indifferent, but on a pinch could probably be persuaded to raise the usual campaign "next egg" for the National Committee.

Evidently there is a chance for a "dark horse" of a city to enter this race.

Appropos of the relics of the iron-clad Virginia, we are told that for many years two of her guns lay on the site of the dock, just back of the junk establishment of J. C. Smith. It was understood that Mr. Smith had purchased them, together with many of the iron-clad's plates, which had been dredged up.

Some months ago it was thought that it would be a good thing if these guns could be obtained by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and mounted on the gun platforms of the fort at Jamestown. Inquiry revealed the fact that Mr. Smith had no recollection of what became of them, and the Belle Isle people who bought much of the iron armor from him are equally ignorant. Can any one tell us what became of them?

Justice Henry Billings Brown, of the United States Supreme Court, will probably become totally blind within the next seven days. So his oculist informed him on Friday. It is said that the aged jurist received the news with composure. Soon afterwards he declared that though slightly he would continue to sit upon the bench.

Two years ago he lost the sight of one eye, and now the optic nerve of the other has been paralyzed.

The judge is now sixty-seven years of age. He will be eligible to retire on his full salary—\$10,000—at the age of seventy years.

It is an open secret in United States army circles that Dr. General Wood maneuvered old General Brooke out of position as Governor of Santiago. The Doctor General was not only the pet of the administration, but he knew how to "work" the newspapers.

Oh, how the army officers would like to see him "downed"! They think Wood has been too much extolled and too rapidly promoted, but they cannot afford to come out in public and say so, for that would be to imperil their places. They fear that the pressure of the administration upon senators will be heavier than senators can resist.

Eggs constitute the "currency" in some country neighborhoods, a function they may perform all the better now since they are selling for 30 to 35 cents per dozen in the cities. The farmer's wife, of course, cannot hope to get that price for them, but she will benefit to some degree from the ruling price.

"Eggs are eggs" nowadays—a fact due largely, we guess, to modern methods of keeping them, the effect being that city merchants are not compelled to hurry them into market, as of old, but can withhold them as long as they please.

A Chicago paper has been writing up Tyrone Power and his grandson, Ulysses Power, from which it appears that it is additional in the Power family that the old man wrote on the walls of old Bandford Church, Petersburg, the verse, "Thou

Look at the Brand!

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The FINEST in the World
Costs Less than One Cent a Cup
Forty Highest Awards in Europe
and America
Walter Baker & Co. Ltd.
Established 1780 Dorchester, Mass.

art crumbling to the dust, old pile."

This claim has been asserted for many, many years, but we cannot say it is generally admitted. At any rate, not many years ago claim to the authorship of those charming lines was made upon behalf of another person—a lady, we think.

Tyrone Power was an Irishman and a poet-actor. He published several books and plays. Ulysses is an actor and was once with Sir Henry Irving's company. He is in Chicago at present.

The voter who hasn't paid his poll tax for 1903 will be in a sorry condition next year when the municipal elections come off. He will be able to vote neither at the primary nor at the regular election. All he can do will be to "talk" for his favorite candidates.

Better pay your tax, and then you can talk and work and vote for your friend.

Where are the poets of Virginia that they have not given us eloquent farewells in verse to the county courts of the State, which are so soon to glide into the past? Some of the judges thus to be relieved from duty are worthy of the best of eulogiums.

The heroes are not all dead. This generation has its share of them, among whom is Boatyard, Deery, of the Adair, who on Thursday, in the fiercest sort of storm, threw himself into the sea and carried a life line, which act resulted in the saving of that boat.

St. Louis, Richmond and any number of other towns afflicted with boodlers, have gone "way back in search of a comfortable seat since that town in Michigan called Grand Rapids has come to the front with its water-boiler scandal.

The Masons of Virginia have wisely decided that February of each year is a better time for them to own Richmond and all the hospitality it stands for

Never mind; that snow storm that has been flirting with us will bring its knitting and make up for lost time when it does come to see us.

Nearly a week has passed by since Danville has had a hot discussion on the subject: "Do prohibition prohibit, and if so how much?"

It will cost the city of Philadelphia just \$150,000 a year to accept Mr. Carnegie's gift of a "free" library.

Columbia, it would seem, will be satisfied with a bit of the hash left over from Thanksgiving.

Boarding-house keepers have not yet ceased to relish the Thanksgiving joke.

Crocker seems to be spiteful. He is begging Colonel Bryan to run again.

It is the wise Christmas shopper who avoids the rush when there is one.

Prohibition in Roanoke depends entirely upon how the town cow votes.

Anyhow, the mountain statesmen can't plant any oysters at home.

The question is, shall Congress be a continued story this time

The mushroom clubs have cracked their own heads, it would seem.

The oyster will do its talking in the Senate now.

With a Comment or Two.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch has an editorial on permission, and by some unauthorized outsiders, to take to the streets the flag of the American people, or that the flag of that State is better than all others. We expect to see the D. B. in the hands of the Old Dominion for its failure to claim them. —Montgomery Advertiser.

We print news. The facts above alluded to are so well known, republication of them in that connection was unnecessary.

We believe that conservative and thoughtful people everywhere will endorse the action of the trustees of Trinity College, North Carolina, in shielding that institution against the proscription of outsiders who would stifle freedom of thought and freedom of speech on the part of the members of its faculty.

The question whether Booker T. Washington is the greatest man the South has produced within a stated period pales into insignificance before the larger question whether a man shall be restrained from writing and publishing his sentiments on that or any other subject merely because he is a member of the college faculty. —Petersburg Index-Appel.

The last proposition can't be denied, and yet there's just hundreds of hard-headed old folks who won't have a man with Bassett's views to teach their boys.

Trend of Thought

In Dixie Land

Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer-Sun: The papers continue to talk Cleveland notwith-standing his declaration not to become a candidate. It is hard to keep a good man down.

Birmingham Age-Herald: Trinity College has disposed of the Bookser Washington question in a diplomatic way, that has brought that institution some much needed advertising.

Montgomery Advertiser: "The colored vote is not troubling the whites in any Southern State," the Editor of the Montgomery Advertiser writes. No, the trouble is in some of the Northern States where that vote holds the balance of power.

Mobile Register: Feudal battle between families—it was not in "Old Kentucky," but right in the heart of Cincinnati, and it culminated in a riot, in which murder and lynchings were narrowly averted. Breathitt county will have to look to its laurels.

Columbia State: The trustees of Trinity College voted to reduce Dr. Bassett in the interest of academic liberty, and the students of Trinity thereupon lashed an editor who had condemned the professor's utterances! If Dr. Bassett is to be the exemplar of free speech at Trinity, we would suggest that a chair of that science be established, with Bassett in charge, to instruct the students in the meaning of the phrase. It appears to us that an editor has as much right to speak his mind as a professor—but then we are an editor!

Personal and General.

Christian G. Peterson, who for twenty-five years has been vice-consul of Russia in New York city, died on Wednesday. He was born in Denmark in 1838.

Isadore Newman, a philanthropic citizen of New Orleans, marked the fiftieth anniversary of his arrival in this country from Germany, which occurred recently, by giving \$50,000 for charity.

Postmaster Davies S. Warfield, of Baltimore, says he will not be a candidate for reappointment and may resign before his term expires on account of his recent election as director of the Seaboard Air Line Railway.

The youngest woman's college president in the country is Miss Mary Emma Wooley, of Mount Holyoke College. She is thirty-six years old, a native of South Norwalk, Conn., and comes of Revolutionary ancestry.

Hazel Harrison, a young colored woman of La Porte, Ind., is considered one of the finest pianists of the West. Arrangements have been made whereby she will appear next September as the soloist with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Berlin, an honor rarely accorded an American.

The World's Coal Area.

Of an estimated coal area of about 4,550,000 square miles in the world, China is credited with 4,000,000 square miles, the United States has about 1,000,000 square miles, Great Britain 1,100,000 square miles, France 2,000,000 square miles, and Belgium 510 square miles. Area is not, however, a true measure of value. The anthracite fields of Pennsylvania include an area of only 468 miles, but these are undoubtedly of more value than any coal area of like extent anywhere in the world.

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MORRIS CHAIRS

A most luxurious line.

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A line galore.

COUCHES

Oh! my.

COMBINATION BOOK CASES

You buy without asking the price.

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A very literary collection.

BOOK CASES

Strictly abreast of the times.

PARLOR SUITS

Lush! honey, lush.

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So pretty, you don't need to dress them

SIDEBOARDS

In variety, and price, simply great.

The above are but a few hints;

call and help us help you to

make some one else happy.

... Our ...

"Blue," "Yellow,"

and "Pink"

.. TAG SALE ..

will be continued a while longer, as,

while its results are gratifying, we

still have a choice selection still un-

sold, and we wish our patrons to get

full benefit of this sale notwithstanding

the fact that every dollar's worth sold

under "these colors" is a loss to us.

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Best Values We Have Ever Given,
and That's Saying a Good Deal.

We Are Ready to Meet the Demands of the Holiday Season.
Everything You Want in Variety and Prices.

Ladies' Suit Department

\$20.00 Suits \$12.49

\$15.00 Suits \$9.98

\$12.50 Suits \$7.98

These include all the latest models in chevrons, Venetian cuts and fancy mixtures, both blouse and straight coat effects.

Rousing Neckwear Sale.

Ladies' Ruffs.

Entire line of salesman's samples—no two alike—at less than half price.

\$20.00 Silk Capes \$8.98

\$15.00 Ruffs \$6.98

\$10.00 Ruffs \$3.98

\$5.00 Ruffs \$2.49

\$2.50 Ruffs 98c

Sensations, which, when you see, you will admit.

Furs! Furs!

Come and See What We Are

Doing—Cutting Prices

in Half.

Isabella Fox Double Bows, \$4.98

Double Opossum Scarfs, \$2.49

with large brush, worth \$5.00

Stoles of fine Black Hare, with

cord and tassels, worth \$1.98

\$1.00 \$1.98

Another Lot of Those

Ladies' Coats

that we did not have enough for last

Monday's selling.

Ladies' Coats in all the newest

models.

Heavily strapped corset coats, new-